

Cross of Christ
Annual Congregation Meeting
February 7, 2016

Call to Order. Nancy McNally, the Congregation President, called the meeting to order at 12:30pm.

Opening Devotion. Pastor Ann led the opening devotion. How we treat/relate to each other inside and outside the church. Paul's gospel – God has been faithful to us. Look around and see the faithfulness, vitality, and enthusiasm. She concluded with prayer.

Super Bowl Challenge. There was a challenge between Rocky Mountain Synod and Carolina Synod, whom could raise the most money for World Hunger. Members who donated were entered into a drawing for a t-shirt.

Recognition. Pastor Ann recognized and thanked the following people for their contributions to the congregation during the past year

1. Denise Andrews
2. Ben Smith
3. Mike Artman
4. Jim Garrett
5. Patti Ansley
6. Nancy McNally
7. Scott Elvington
8. Doris Ditmer, 9 years as financial Secretary

Approval of Minutes from the 2015 Congregational Meetings, January 25, 2015 and June 7, 2015.

1. Vic Ramey moved to approve the minutes of the congregational meetings
2. Grover Sardeson seconded the motion, and passed without dissent.

Election of Church Council, Synod Assembly Representatives and 2016 Nominating Committee.

The Council Nomination slate submitted by the church council was elected by acclamation:

1. Sonja Wendt, Vice President elected
2. Ralph Dehnert, Treasurer elected
3. Debbie Finamore, Secretary elected, 1 year term
4. Scott Hofer, Council-at-Large elected

5. Chris Kassel, Council-at-Large elected
6. Kyle Miller, Council-at-Large elected, 1 year term
7. Kristen Shapiro, Council-at-Large elected
8. Julie Toepper, Council-at-Large elected
9. Sarah Gillogly, Youth Council-at-Large elected, 1 year term
10. Bill and Linda Carlisle, Synod Assembly Delegates
11. 2016 Nominating Committee. Connie Morey, Rob Ditmer, Ron Frost, Denise Andrews, and Nancy McNally,

Approval of church reports. Linda Bobbitt moved that the church reports be approved. Karen Harlow seconded the motion and it was passed without dissent.

Discussion and approval of Congregation Spending Plan for 2016. Scott Elvington reviewed the 2015 financial performance.

2015 Financial review:

1. Pledged contributions were budgeted at 95% of Pledges and we received 91%.
2. In 2015, we had 214 pledges with over a hundred not meeting their pledge.
3. Unpledged contributions exceeded budget.
4. Total income was within \$18.00 of total budget when debt reduction removed.
5. Overall expenses were under budget.
6. We had a strong year of giving and staying on budget.

The spending plan for 2016:

A. Income

1. 207 pledges were made for a total \$620,435.00. Budget pledges are at 95% of total pledges.
2. Unpledged contributions were increased to match what was received in 2015 to a total of \$115,000.00.
3. Proposed total budgeted income is \$750,947.00.
4. Question was asked to clarify what the preschool utilities were. Scott explained that the preschool reimburse the general fund for their use of the phone, insurance, and janitorial services.

B. Expenses

1. Salaries are the biggest expense. All staff is receiving a 3% increase with the exceptions of Pastor Kathy. Pastor Kathy receiving a 5% increase to align her with synod guidelines. Leslie Striegel's increase of 28% is for increase in hours from 20 hours to 25 per week. The Organist increase is budgeted at 2% increase instead of 3% due to an error in the 2015 budget. Organist was paid the correct amount in 2015.

2. Added a line under Long Range Planning for the Holy Cow Survey.
 3. Technology was reduced by \$2,000.00 per their request.
 4. Property remained flat. Explanation of how the new Capital Improvement fund will be used compared to the property budget. Capital Improvement fund will be used to save for improvements. Council is in the process of setting guidelines for the Capital Improvement Fund. The Capital Improvement Fund will be tracked on the Statement of Financial Position Current Liabilities and will not be budgeted for. This will allow for us to move towards a planned approach to spending on big ticket/special projects. Council will prioritize the proposed projects.
 5. Called to More paid 1/3 of the mortgage on a monthly basis. This decision was made when the 2014 budget was approved. The use of Called to More was reduced by 12% or \$6,000.00 to wean off Called to More funds.
- C. Discussion on Spending Planning
1. Grover Sardeson expressed concern that Called to More is not going to be around forever and we should cut a little now instead of steep cuts later. He made a motion to reduce the proposed salary increase by 1%. (From 3% to 2% and Pastor Kathy 5% to 4%). Motion was seconded by Linda Bobbitt. Vote was 25 approved, 85 opposed, and 6 abstained. Motion was defeated. Spending plan was approved.
 2. A motion by Lance Toepper to have church council and leadership come up with a strategic and tactical plan so church can go forward utilizing annual budgeted revenue to meet budgeted cost to eliminate reliance on CTM (called to more) funds starting with the 2017 fund. Seconded by Grover Sardeson. Sandy Elvington from the Stewardship Committee spoke to the fact that we can either cut spending or pledge more. The committee has seen the number of members pledging decrease slightly. The point was made that it is the members' responsibility to pledge to meet our needs. Nancy McNally responded that we are working on weaning off CTM. Council understands the need to increase revenue and decrease expense and we should try to recruit new members. Scott Elvington stated that finance and stewardship worked together and asked for a 12% increase in pledges, we received fewer pledges but the total pledged amount increased. Finance looked at CTM and decided to reduce it marginally with a four year ramp down. Motion was defeated in verbal vote.
 3. Ed Painz spoke that the Capital Fund is a good thing. For example the church has 6 furnaces that are 20 years old and we are starting to have to patch them up. He said it will be nice to know that we will have a capital improvement fund available when replacement is needed.

Pastor Ann gave an update on the Sound System and Sign. Sound system is totally funded and should start see new equipment and cabinet in the near future. The sign is also fully funded. A large gift was given by one family and Jim Farver gave a gift in memory of his parents Virginia and Fred Farver to finish off the funding for the sign.

Closing Prayer. Pastor Kathy offered the closing prayer.

Meeting Adjourned at 1:55pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Debbie Finamore
Secretary